

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
July 5, 2006

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## **Iroquois County Man Charged with Interstate Travel to Engage in Sex with a Juvenile**

Springfield, Illinois -- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury returned an indictment today charging an Iroquois county, Illinois man with interstate travel to engage in sex with a juvenile. The indictment charges Michael Baker, age 22, of Watseka, Illinois, with traveling out of state on or about October 8, 2005, to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor under age 18.

If convicted, the offense of traveling to engage in illicit sexual conduct carries a maximum statutory penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. A summons will be issued for Baker to appear in federal court in Urbana, Illinois.

The indictment is the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with assistance from the Iroquois County Sheriff's Department, Iroquois County State's Attorney's Office, Waterford, Wisconsin Police Department and Racine County, Wisconsin Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy A. Bass.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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